

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 SSM-03 DHA-02 ORM-02
/095 W

-----222355Z 041355 /73

R 221506Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5363
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2020

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IS, EEC, US
SUBJECT: ALLON DISCUSSES PRESIDENT'S RECENT STATEMENTS

1. THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR HAS TOLD US THAT AT A MEETING
MARCH 21 WITH THE AMBASSADORS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
COUNTRIES, FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON DISCUSSED RECENT
STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT CARTER REGARDING POSSIBLE
SETTLEMENT OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT. THE MEETING
HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY THE AMBASSADORS TO HEAR A REPORT
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FROM ALLON ON LAST WEEK'S VISIT TO ISRAEL BY FRG
FOREIN MINISTER GENSCHER (SEPTTEL). AFTER DIS-
CUSSING THE GENSCHER VISIT, ALLON TURNED THE CONVER-
SATION TO REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT.

2. BORDERS. ALTHOUGH PRIME MINISTER RABIN HAD
INITIALLY WELCOMED THE PRESIDENT'S DISTINCTION BETWEEN

NATIONAL BOUNDARIES AND DEFENSIBLE BORDERS, ALLON TOLD THE AMBASSADORS THAT, FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS AND FURTHER CONSIDERATION, ISRAEL CANNOT ACCEPT SUCH A DISTINCTION. TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN NATIONAL AND DEFENSIBLE BORDERS AND TO CREATE AN ARTIFICIAL AREA BETWEEN SUCH LINES WOULD CREATE NEW PROBLEMS, AND THOSE PROBLEMS (FOR EXAMPLE, OVERRELIANCE UPON FOREIGN TROOPS FOR POLICING) COULD PROVE MORE UNAMANGEABLE THAN THE PRESENT SITUATION.

3. HOMELAND. ALLON SAID THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT YET CLEAR ABOUT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MEANING OF THIS TERM. IS THIS A HOMELAND IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN SENSE OF A SEPARATE RESERVATION? IS IT A NATIONAL HOME IN THE SENSE OF THE BALFOUR DECLARATION? DOES IT MEAN THE RIGHT OF RETURN FOR PALESTINIAN REFUGEES PRESENTLY IN SYRIA, LEBANON AND JORDAN?

4. THE PLO. ALLON EMPHASIZED TO THE AMBASSADORS THAT THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED SESSION OF THE PNC HAS CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE PLO POSITION AND THAT ISRAEL HAS BEEN CORRECT IN CONTINUING ITS OPPOSITION TO RECOGNITION OF AND DEALING WITH THE ORGANIZATION. HE SAID THE QUESTION NOW IS HOW THE ARAB GOVERNMENTS WILL RESPOND TO THE CHALLENGE ISSUED BY THE PLO: ARAB GOVERNMENTS HAD CLEARLY INDICATED THAT THE PLO SHOULD SHOW FLEXIBILITY, THE PLO IN RESPONSE HAD CLEARLY STATED IT WOULD NOT CHANGE, AND THE ARAB GOVERNMENTS ARE THUS FACED WITH THE DECISION
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OF HOW TO REACT.

5. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, THE BRITISH DCM TOLD US THAT A RELIABLE SOURCE (NOTE: PROBABLY THE CABINET SECRETARY) HAD REPORTED THAT THE CABINET DISCUSSION MARCH 20 OF THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS HAD BEEN A RELAXED ONE. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, RABIN SAID THE MAIN ACHIEVEMENT OF HIS WASHINGTON VISIT HAD BEEN TO GAIN THE PRESIDENT'S AGREEMENT TO THE ISRAELI DEFINITION OF PEACE. BECAUSE NONE OF THE ARAB GOVERNMENTS WILL BE ABLE TO AGREE TO THAT DEFINITION (I.E., FULL NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS) THE ONUS FOR LACK OF PROGRESS AT ANY GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD BE ON THE ARABS: ISRAEL CAN THEREFORE AFFORD TO BE PATIENT ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S NEW FORMULATIONS.
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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